

Message Text

PAGE 01 USUN N 03744 090443Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USSS-00 DRC-01 /178 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9989

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION PEKING

USINT CAIRO

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

UNCLAS USUN 3744

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJ: US STATEMENT TO SC ON ME SITUATION

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT TO SC BY AMB. SCALI DELIVERED
LATE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 8:

MR. PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES HAS REQUESTED THAT THE
SECURITY COUNCIL BE CONVENED TODAY IN ORDER THAT IT MIGHT DEAL
URGENTLY WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN THREE YEARS, ARMED
HOSTILITIES HAVE BROKEN OUT ON A MASSIVE SCALE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
THE CEASEFIRE WE HAVE SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN HAS BEEN
BROKEN. THE RECOURSE TO TRAGIC VIOLENCE WE HAVE SOUGHT TO
AVOID IS UPON US.
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03744 090443Z

REPORT BASED ON UNITED NATIONS SOURCES APPEAR TO INDICATE
THAT THE AIR ATTACKS IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WERE INITIATED BY
SYRIAN MIG AIRCRAFT AND THAT THE FIRST FIRING ON THE SUEZ
FRONT, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE SYRIAN ATTACK,

WAS FROM WEST TO EAST. THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIGHTING HAS BEEN FULLY COVERED IN THE PRESS.

IN THE DAYS BEFORE FIGHTING BROKE OUT, WE RECEIVED REPORTS OF INTENSIFIED MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EASTERN AREA. WE WATCHED THESE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY, BUT UNTIL A FEW HOURS BEFORE MILITARY OPERATIONS STARTED, WE WERE UNABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT THESE ACTIVITIES WERE A PRELUDE TO ACTUAL FIGHTING. THIS IS A REGION IN WHICH ALARMS AND ALERTS ARE FAIRLY FREQUENT. IN THEMSELVES, MILITARY MOVEMENTS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THAT COMBAT WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN. WHEN, VERY SHORTLY BEFORE THE INITIAL ATTACKS TOOK PLACE, WE RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THIS WAS THE FACT, WE IMMEDIATELY UNDERTOOK INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN HOPES THAT THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES MIGHT BE PREVENTED, WE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION DIRECTLY WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT. WE CONSULTED OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH NY GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED ON THIS COUNCIL. OTHERS IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE AREA PURSUED PARALLEL EFFORTS. WE KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM WHO ALSO LENT HIS GREAT WEIGHT AND PRESTIGE TO THE EFFORTS. UNFORTUNATELY THESE EFFORTS DID NOT PREVENT THE OUTBREAK, AND INTENSE FIGHTING CONTINUES.

IN SO SERIOUS A SITUATION WE FELT THAT WE COULD NOT FAIL TO EXERCISE OUR RESPONSIBILITY, AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, TO REQUEST A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN ORDER THAT IT MIGHT BE SEIZED OF THE GRAVE SITUATION WHICH HAD ARISEN. NOT TO HAVE DONE THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN TO FAIL IN OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CHARTER. WE HOPE THAT IN THE DAYS AHEAD THE COUNCIL BY ITS DELIBERATION CAN RESTORE IN THE MOST CRITICAL AND EXPLOSIVE AREA IN THE WORLD.

DEFINITIVE JUDGEMENTS AS TO CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION ARE DIFFICULT IN VIEW OF THE FLUIDITY OF THE SITUATION. MY GOVERNMENT HAS ITSELF MADE NOT SUCH JUDGMENTS. NOR HAVE WE FELT IT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE TO DIVERT THE COUNCIL'S ENERGIES AND ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF ASSESSING BLAME.

OUR PURPOSE TODAY IS NOT TO SIFT CONFLICTING REPORTS OR TO ASSESS RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAS OCCURRED. OUR PURPOSE IS TO HELP PROMOTE A SOLUTION FOR THE TENSE AND DANGEROUS SITUATION
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PAGE 03 USUN N 03744 090443Z

CONFRONTING US.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE PROXIMATE FROM UNDERLYING CAUSES. THE FORMER MAY BE CLEARCUT, BUT THE LATTER ARE COMPLEX, AND PERCEPTIONS OF RIGHT AND WRONG INEVITABLY VARY, IT HAS BEEN OVER SIX YEARS SINCE THE PRESENT ABNORMAL SITUATION WAS CREATED IN THE WAKE OF THE 1967 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. THAT WAS

IN TURN FOLLOWED EIGHTEEN YEARS OF ABNORMAL ARMISTICE. FOR THE FAILURE TO MOVE FROM ABNORMAL ARMISTICE AND CEASEFIRE TO POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION AND PEACE, THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH BLAME TO GO AROUND. ALL CONCERNED HAVE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE THE TRANSITION OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS.

WE HAVE GIVEN PRELIMINARY THOUGHT TO THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THIS COUNCIL MIGHT MOVE IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM, SO THAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE PRACTICAL PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE CAN BE CREATED, AND THE PRESENT TRAGEDY CAN BE MADE A NEW BEGINNING RATHER THAN SIMPLY ANOTHER LOST OPPORTUNITY. AS WE SEE ITWN THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PRINCIPLES WHICH THE COUNCIL MUST SEEK TO APPLY.

FIRST, IN SITUATION WHERE FIGHTING IS RAGING UNCHECKED, THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS MUST BE FOUND FOR BRINGING THE HOSTILITIES TO AN END. MILITARY OPERATIONS MUST BE HALTED. THE GUNS MUST FALL SILENT SO THAT ADDITIONAL HUMAN SUFFERING MAY BE AVOIDED AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACE MAY PROCEED.

SECOND, CONDITIONS MUST BE RESTORED IN THE AREA THAT WOULD BE CONDUCTIVE TO A SETTLEMENT OF THE LONG-STANDING DIFFERENCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE MUST BE RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS AND POSITIONS OF ALL THE STATES IN THE REGION. A BEGINNING MUST BE MADE TOWARD CONVERTING THE SHARP CONFRONTATION OF VIOLENTLY OPPOSING CLAIMS AND COUNTERCLAIMS, WHICH FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY HAS MADE TRUE STABILITY IMPOSSIBLE, TO A MORE REASONED DISCOURSE AIMED AT GENUINE RECONCILIATION. THE LEAST DAMAGING WAY TO BRING THIS ABOUT IS TO HAVE THE PARTIES CONCERNED RETURN TO THE POSITIONS BEFORE HOSTILITIES BROKE OUT.

THIRD, IN ALL ITS EFFORTS THE COUNCIL MUST BE MINDFUL OF THE NEED FOR UNIVERSAL RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THOSE INSTRUMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF SETTLEMENT FOR THE MIDDLE EASTERN

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PAGE 04 USUN N 03744 090443Z

PARTIES AND THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY. THE FOUNDATIONS SO LABORIOUSLY ACHIEVED IN THE PAST FOR NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD A MIDDLE EASTERN PEACE MUST NOT BE DESTROYED UNDER THE STRESS OF A MILITARY EMERGENCY.

THESE PRINCIPLES, IN THE OPINION OF MY GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTE THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE CAN ACT IN THIS COUNCIL

TO REDUCE THE PREVAILING TENSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO PREPARE FOR A REINVIGORATION OF THE PROCESS OF PEACEMAKING. WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE PRINCIPLES, AND ANY OTHERS WHICH OTHER MEMBERS MAY PUT FORWARD, AS A BASIS FOR OUR FURTHER ACTION.

WHAT WE SEEK IN THIS COUNCIL IS NOT A WAR OF WORDS, BUT A BROAD CONSENSUS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO PUT THE FULL WEIGHT OF ITS INFLUENCE BEHIND THE TASK OF RESTORING PEACE, SO THAT THE MIDDLE EAST CAN BE SET ON A NEW COURSE POINTING TOWARD A BETTER ERA IN THE REGION.

LET THE US RENOUNCE THE STERILE GAINS OF PROPAGANDA AND TURN TO SERIOUS DISCUSSION. THE SITUATION IS URGENT; THE NEED IS GREAT, AND TIME PRESSES. UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN03744
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqcelcq.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US STATEMENT TO SC ON ME SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, XF, UN
To: STATE INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT
LONDON
MOSCOW
PARIS
TEL AVIV
PEKING

CAIRO

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005